UNITED NATIONS **DP**

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/FPA/1997/1
5 November 1996

ORIGINAL: English

First regular session 1997
13 -17 January 1997, New York
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION, AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR, THE UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR NICARAGUA

I. BACKGROUND

1. UNFPA requests that its programme of assistance for Nicaragua be extended by one year through the end of 1997. The primary aim of the extension is to harmonize the programme cycle with that of UNDP and to develop the next programme in close consultation with the new Government, which will take office in January 1997. UNFPA also requests that the funding authority for the programme be increased by $4 million. This will cover an overexpenditure of $0.7 million in 1996 and provide $3.3 million for 1997, $2 million from regular resources and $1.3 million that will be sought from multi-bilateral sources. The additional resources will be used to implement ongoing projects in 1997 within the framework of the country programme as approved by the Executive Board in June 1994. The additional funding authority will also facilitate the transition to the next programme of assistance, which is planned to be presented to the Executive Board at its third regular session in September 1997.

2. In June 1994, the Executive Board approved the fourth UNFPA country programme for Nicaragua in the amount of $5.5 million over a three-year period, 1994-1996, of which $3.4 million were to be provided from regular resources and $2.1 million from multi-bilateral resources, or from regular resources, if then available. In the event, only $0.7 million in multi-bilateral resources became available, and UNFPA financed the balance of $1.4 million from regular resources, bringing total estimated expenditures for 1994-1996 to $5.5 million from regular resources and $0.7 million from multi-bilateral resources.

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3. The current request of an additional authority of $4 million, thus, includes an expected over-expenditure of $0.7 million in 1996 and $3.3 million in spending authority for 1997. Approval of the extension and additional resources would bring the total approval authority for the period 1994-1997 to $9.5 million. This request for extension is presented according to the work plan categories in force when the original country programme was approved. The proposed activities, however, take into account the transition to the core programme areas of UNFPA as endorsed by the Executive Board in decision 95/15. The implementation of the current programme has demonstrated that the country's absorptive capacity has increased substantially compared with that during the period of the previous programme.

4. All activities during the extended period would be undertaken in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which was endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution 49/128.

II. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

5. The current programme has had several notable achievements. For example, it helped to strengthen human resources in the area of reproductive health through training at the local level; increase national execution; further decentralize the UNFPA-assisted programme; promote coordination with other donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the implementation of the programme; and increase the absorptive capacity of the country, as evidenced by the increased implementation rate noted above.

6. The proposed extension will help to consolidate these achievements and ensure that future UNFPA assistance will effectively respond to needs of the country and the priorities of the new Government. It will help promote collaboration among United Nations organizations, whose programmes are concentrated in four northern regions: Nueva Segovia, Leon, Matagalpa and Jinotega. It will also facilitate government efforts to conceptualize reproductive health and provide comprehensive services accordingly.

7. In order to consolidate current achievements and to re-orient the programme towards the goals of the ICPD, the programme will continue to: (a) build national capacity in reproductive health with the aim of improving the quality of reproductive health and family planning services and the effectiveness of information, education and communication (IEC) interventions; (b) further advance the decentralization process and promote community participation; (c) ensure the appropriate integration of the gender perspective and sociocultural aspects into all UNFPA-supported activities; and (d) collect appropriate baseline data to help measure the impact of UNFPA assistance for Nicaragua.

8. The major achievements in the area of maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) include: (a) improved technical skills of medical personnel at the local level; (b) increased participation of NGOs and local communities; and (c) increased provision of reproductive health information and services, including to adolescents. With the support of the Ministry of Health and selected NGOs, the proposed programme extension will further improve the coverage and quality of MCH/FP services and facilitate the transition to an integrated reproductive health care approach. The longer term aim is to make comprehensive reproductive health services available to all Nicaraguans, and in particular to rural women and adolescents.

9. The programme will assist in providing training to community health workers and technical assistance to the masters' degree programme in reproductive health at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua; in providing contraceptives and strengthening the logistics management of such contraceptives; in establishing referral services in reproductive health; and in producing data in the area of reproductive health and promoting its use. In so doing, the programme will promote the participation of NGOs, community organizations and males.

10. Another major achievement of the current programme has been the formulation of the National Population Policy, which was approved by the country's Social Cabinet in May 1996. The policy was the product of extensive debates and discussions involving a wide range of participants including the Government, NGOs, community organizations, the private sector, labour unions and religious organizations. As a result, awareness of population and development issues has increased among policy and decision makers as well as communities. Currently, a plan of action is being developed to facilitate the implementation of the policy.

11. Assistance provided under the extended programme will support the efforts of the Ministry of Social Action to implement the National Population Policy in collaboration with other ministries, NGOs and community organizations. It will also support government advocacy efforts in support of the policy.

12. The UNFPA-assisted programme was instrumental in undertaking the country's first population census in 24 years. The results, which became available in October 1996, will be a valuable tool in the formulation and evaluation of socio-economic development programmes at both the national and local levels. The programme will continue to help to: (a) provide useful information for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of population and development policies and programmes; (b) deepen the understanding of the links among population, education, health, poverty, well-being, environment and development, and gender; and (c) strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage, analyse and use socio-demographic information and to incorporate population components into local development plans and programmes. Assistance will thus be provided to: disseminate census results; conduct socio-demographic studies; establish databases;

strengthen demographic information networks at national, regional and local levels; and provide requisite training to municipalities.

13. Efforts in the area of IEC helped to increase awareness of population and development issues and of reproductive health concepts and to include advocacy components in most programme activities. Under the proposed programme extension, UNFPA will continue to provide assistance to the Government's advocacy activities aimed at: (a) promoting the new Government's commitments to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the National Population Policy; (b) increasing the school enrolment of females; and (c) promoting the participation of grass-roots organizations and of adolescents in population activities. A related aim will be to sensitize journalists to population issues and to train them in reporting on population and related issues.

14. Under the proposed programme extension, national execution will be further promoted. The Programme will be monitored by the Ministry of External Cooperation and the Ministry of Social Action and by UNFPA. A programme review and strategy development (PRSD) exercise will be carried out in early 1997.

15. The activities of the proposed programme extension will complement those of the major donors active in Nicaragua both in terms of programme area and geographic coverage. Most major donors mainly support primary health care programmes in which the reproductive health components are limited to providing antenatal and perinatal care and monitoring maternal mortality. Only Germany and the United States contribute to such reproductive health components as family planning and the provision of contraceptives. Norway and Finland are considering approving reproductive health projects. The capacity of the UNFPA country office in Nicaragua to attract multi-bilateral funding has improved significantly over the past few years. The country office has been negotiating with Norway, Finland, Luxembourg and the European Union to obtain multi-bilateral funds of $4.4 million for the 1997-1999 period.

16. As noted in paragraph 1, UNFPA proposes to extend the country programme for Nicaragua through 1997 and to increase the funding authority by $4 million. This would bring the UNFPA programme of assistance for the period 1994-1997 to a total of $9.5 million. The following table shows how that amount would be accommodated by programme areas (in millions of $):

Sectors	Approved by Executive Board, 1994-1996		Estimated expenditures 1994-1996		Additional spending authority 1994-1977		Total 1994-1997	
	Regular resources	Multi-bi resources	Regular resources	Multi-bi resources	Regular resources	Multi-bi resources	Regular resources	Multi-bi resources
Maternal and child health and family planning	1.5	0.8	3.6	0.9*	3.5	1.4	5.0	2.2
Information, education and communication	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.2	-	0.7	-
Data collection and analysis	1.0	1.0	0.6	-	(0.3)	(1.00)	0.7	-
Population dynamics	0.1	0.15	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.2	-
Population policy formulation	0.1	-	0.4	-	0.4	(0.15)	0.5	-
Women, population and development	0.1	0.15	0.1	-	0.1	(0.15)	0.2	-
Programme reserve	0.1	-	-	-	(0.1)	-	-	-
Total	3.4	2.1	5.3	0.9	3.9	0.1	7.3	2.2

* May include IEC activities and women, population and development efforts under MCH/FP.

III. RECOMMENDATION

17. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the extension of the Nicaragua country programme by one year until the end of 1997, and increase the funding authority of the programme by $4 million to cover the overexpenditure of $0.7 million in 1996 and $3.3 million for 1997, subject to the availability of resources.

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UNITED NATIONS **DP**

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/FPA/1997/2
4 November 1996

ORIGINAL: English

First regular session 1997
13 -17 January 1997, New York
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF, AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR, THE UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR BANGLADESH

Report of the Executive Director

I. BACKGROUND

1. UNFPA requests that the programme of assistance for Bangladesh, a category A country, be extended by one year through the end of 1997. The programme, which had been extended for one year through 1996, was approved by the Governing Council in 1991 for the five-year period 1991-1995, in the amount of $35 million, of which $28 million was to be committed from UNFPA's regular resources and $7 million from multi-bilateral or regular resources to the extent UNFPA's funding situation would permit. It is estimated that expenditures for the period 1991-1996 will amount to $31.8 million -- $30.7 million from regular resources and $1.1 from multi-bilateral resources. Thus, as provided for under the funding authority approved for the programme, UNFPA regular resources, amounting to $2.7 million, have been used to cover some of the programme activities that had been included under the multi-bilateral component of the programme. Taking this into account, UNFPA requests that the funding authority for the programme be increased by $3 million, raising the total funding authority for 1991-1997 to $38 million, of which $36.9 million would be programmed from regular resources and $1.1 million from multi-bilateral resources. This constitutes an effective increase of the amount of regular resources by $8.9 million.

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2. Civil unrest, including country-wide strikes and work-stoppages, contributed to delays in the implementation of programme activities, as well as to the postponement of the UNFPA programme review and strategy development (PRSD) mission and the subsequent formulation of the next programme of assistance. Since the programme was structured using the former work plan categories, the present request follows that format as well. The primary aim of the additional extension is to conclude and consolidate ongoing programme activities and to prepare for the next country programme starting in 1998 in accordance with the new Government's priorities and strategies.

3. The current (fourth) programme of assistance forms an integral part of the Government's population programme. The broad objectives of the programme of assistance will remain valid during the extension. However, special attention will be given to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and to the reorientation of activities towards an integrated reproductive health approach, including family planning and sexual health. The aim of the programme is to assist the Government in: (a) building national capacity for policy analysis and for population programme planning, implementation, evaluation and coordination; (b) enhancing the outreach capability of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; (c) promoting the integration of women's concerns into mainstream development activities; and (d) institutionalizing formal and non-formal population information, education and communication (IEC).

4. UNFPA's assistance complements the assistance provided by the other major donors active in the country, especially that of the World Bank-led consortium of donors in support of the Fourth Health and Population Project. In this context, UNFPA's assistance has concentrated on establishing maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) services in the Maternal and Child Welfare Centres in the Rajshahi Division, as well as on providing technical and management training for MCH/FP professionals throughout the country at all levels. UNFPA has also assisted the country in strengthening family-planning management information and supervision systems. UNFPA has played a key role in the procurement and supply of contraceptives and provided technical assistance on issues concerning contraceptive logistics and availability.

5. The UNFPA programme has also had an important advisory and advocacy role in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, helping to sensitize the public at large on reproductive health and gender issues, to integrate population concerns into primary and secondary school education and to motivate rural cooperatives to address reproductive health and gender issues. In addition, UNFPA has helped the Government to collect population and health data disaggregated by sex. Important progress has been made in strengthening national capacity in population and

development activities, and most of the activities of the programme are nationally executed. The UNFPA Country Support Teams (CSTs) in the region have helped in providing a vast array of technical assistance for Bangladesh in the population field.

6. The mid-term review of the programme carried out in July 1994 concluded that the focus on strengthening MCH/FP services has been appropriate and recommended strengthening UNFPA support to ensure the availability of contraceptives; targeting IEC activities to specific target groups; involving non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to a greater extent in programme activities; and reprogramming part of the unused funds under the area of women, population and development for MCH/FP activities, especially for adolescent girls. These recommendations have been taken into account in the implementation of the programme. However, support related to adolescents has been limited. UNFPA's future support in this area will be developed on the basis of the results of the 1996 PRSD exercise.

II PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

7. The strengthening and expansion of the district-level Maternal and Child Welfare Centres to provide quality comprehensive reproductive health care to women and adolescents is the major component of the fourth UNFPA programme of assistance. Visits to clinics by pregnant women for antenatal care and by women seeking contraceptive information and services have increased substantially, and essential obstetric care is now available in the 11 clinics where doctors and paramedics have been trained and where diagnosis and treatment of reproductive tract infections (RTIs) have been initiated. These activities were expanded in 1996, following the recommendations of an external evaluation; by the end of 1997, it is expected that 49 additional Maternal and Child Welfare Centres will have been strengthened. This will include the provision of technical assistance; the training of doctors and paramedics in reproductive health; the repair and renovation of facilities; and the provision of equipment, supplies and contraceptives. Special attention will be paid to gender concerns.

8. UNFPA has also provided assistance through the Family Planning and Service Training Centre to grass-roots-level NGOs in rural and urban areas not covered by the Government, for the provision of basic reproductive health services and family welfare education. During 1997, technical support will continue to be provided to these NGOs.

9. During the implementation of the programme, the number of district-level family planning offices equipped with management information systems (MIS) has been extended from 21 districts to 64 districts. A joint assessment of the MIS conducted by the Government, the World Bank and UNFPA in 1996 will provide the basis for the further development of the system and of related

training activities during the programme extension, including the design of a set of reproductive health indicators.

10. UNFPA has assisted the Government in maintaining the availability of contraceptives and related commodities through procurement of such commodities with UNFPA regular funds and trust funds. During the programme extension, UNFPA will provide $1.5 million from regular resources for the procurement of contraceptives. The Fund will also provide technical assistance to develop strategies to strengthen the Government's capacity in logistics management and distribution of family planning and reproductive health commodities.

11. Additional funding authority in the amount of $4 million will be required for the reproductive health sector. In 1991-1997, UNFPA assistance for this area would thus total $27.5 million, of which amount $26.4 million would be programmed from regular resources and $1.1 million from multi-bilateral resources.

12. In support of reproductive health activities, UNFPA has assisted the Information, Education and Motivation Unit of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to develop IEC materials, and curricula have been developed with the participation of NGOs for training and orientation of such different groups as trainers, religious leaders and members of cooperatives, among others. During the programme extension, continued support will be provided for the Government's IEC and advocacy activities with special emphasis on mobilizing religious leaders' support for population activities at the village level, enhancing national training and research capacity in IEC and advocacy, and further involving mass media in supporting programme activities.

13. IEC materials and activities have also been developed for policy makers and programme managers to promote gender equality and equity. During the programme extension, the programme will provide support for training on gender issues for district-level functionaries and trainers and for incorporating gender issues in the regular training programmes of the National Institute for Population Research and Training. Members of 5,000 rural cooperatives -- half of them formed by poor women -- have received orientation training on family welfare in conjunction with income-generating activities, and these activities will be expanded during the extension. With UNFPA support, some 4,000 youth leaders have received orientation and training on population and environment, and during the programme extension, population and environment concerns will be incorporated in the regular curricula of youth training institutes.

14. Important progress has been made in institutionalizing population education in the formal school system, in close coordination with the General Education Project supported by the World Bank. At the primary level, curricula have been revised to include such topics as HIV/AIDS, family life education, and gender equity. Some 30,000 teachers have been trained, and UNFPA will continue to support the training of 40,000 additional teachers during the programme extension. Furthermore, support for activities to introduce population education in secondary schools, universities, technical and vocational institutes and religious schools will continue during the programme extension. Preparatory activities to introduce family life education in the non-formal sector will be supported in 1997 with the participation of NGOs.

15. Additional funding authority of $1 million is requested for the IEC and advocacy sector. In 1991-1997, UNFPA assistance for this area would thus total $6.3 million from regular resources.

16. UNFPA has provided support to the 1991 census, as well as to a demographic and health survey. During the extension, further support will be provided mainly through training and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of the Census Bureau to update population data and information and to develop population projections for development planning purposes, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the Bureau's Health and Demographic Survey Section to conduct population-related socio-cultural research. UNFPA will also provide technical support to the Secretariat of the National Population Council and for the revision of the National Population and Health Policy in order to incorporate ICPD Programme of Action recommendations in the policy. In 1991-1997, UNFPA assistance for the areas of population policy formulation, population dynamics and data collection and analysis would total $2.8 million from UNFPA regular resources.

17. Activities to strengthen the management capacity of the Department of Women's Affairs at the central as well as district level have been initiated in 1996 and will continue during the programme extension in close coordination with the support provided by other donors. To cover these activities and to support gender, population and development activities of NGOs, UNFPA assistance in this sector would total $1.4 million from UNFPA regular resources in 1991-1997.

18. UNFPA is paying special attention to the close coordination of activities with those of other major donors, particularly the World Bank-led consortium of donors. The programme activities would be monitored and evaluated according to standard UNFPA procedures and guidelines. In addition to the mid-term review held in July 1994, a programme review was conducted in the context of the PRSD exercise in September-October 1996.

III RECOMMENDATION

19. UNFPA recommends that the Executive Board approve the extension of the programme of assistance for Bangladesh through the end of 1997 and the increase in the funding authority by $3 million, raising the total funding authority of the programme to $38 million. This includes an amount of $5.9 million that was originally expected from multi-bilateral resources but which was ultimately funded from UNFPA regular resources. Redistribution of programme resources is also requested as shown in the following table:

Sectors	Approved by Governing Council, 1991		Estimated Expenditures 1991-1996		Additional Funds and Redistribution Requested		Total 1991-1997	
	Regular Resources	Multi-bi Resources	Regular Resources	Multi-bi Resources	Regular Resources	Multi-bi Resources	Regular Resources	Multi-bi Resources
Maternal and child health and family planning	17.5	6.0	22.7	1.1	8.9	(4.9)	26.4	1.1
Information, education and communication	5.0	0.3	5.1	-	1.3	(0.3)	6.3	-
Data collection and analysis	0.7	0.3	1.6	-	1.1	(0.3)	1.8	-
Population policy formulation	0.7	-	0.2	-	(0.4)	-	0.3	-
Population dynamics	0.6	-	0.3	-	0.1	-	0.7	-
Women, population and development	3.0	0.4	0.8	-	(1.6)	(0.4)	1.4	-
Programme reserve	0.5	-	-	-	(0.5)	-	-	-
Total	28.0	7.0	30.7	1.1	8.9	(5.9)	36.9	1.1

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UNITED NATIONS

DP

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/FPA/1997/3
5 November 1996

ORIGINAL: English

First regular session 1997
13 - 17 January 1997, New York
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF, AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR, THE UNFPA COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Report of the Executive Director

I. BACKGROUND

1. UNFPA requests that the programme of assistance to the South Pacific subregion be extended by one year until the end of 1997 and funding authority be increased by $3.1 million. This extension would allow the programme to complete activities already under way as part of the ongoing subregional programme and would facilitate the completion of the programming process, currently being undertaken, for the development of a new programme starting in 1998.

2. The first comprehensive UNFPA programme of assistance had been formulated using a subregional approach and was approved by the Governing Council in May 1992 for the period 1992-1996. Funding had been approved in the amount of $12.5 million, of which $10 million was to be programmed from UNFPA's regular resources and $2.5 million to be sought from a combination of UNFPA regular resources and other resources, including multi-bilateral resources. The Fund now requests the Executive Board to approve an increase of the funding approval authority by $3.1 million, which would cover approximately $1 million in over-expenditures in 1996 and $2.1 million ($1.8 million from regular resources and $300,000 from multi-bilateral sources) necessary for

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proposed activities in 1997. The proposed expenditures of $2.1 million for 1997, which is lower than average expenditures in recent years, would be utilized to continue core activities while a new programme is being developed.

3. The fourteen Pacific Island countries covered under the subregional programme comprise 1.9 million people in dispersed island countries at varying stages of economic development. Despite the small population size, these are fourteen independent countries each with their specific needs for assistance for efforts to achieve sustainable development. Of the fourteen, five countries, namely, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, fall within group "A" under UNFPA's new resource allocation categories. The Federated States of Micronesia is the only group "B" country, and Fiji is the only group "C" country. The rest of the countries -- Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau,Tokelau and Tonga -- are not categorized under the new allocation system.

4. UNFPA is the main organization providing assistance in the field of reproductive health, particularly for family planning, and for advocacy in the field of population. Australia also provides assistance in reproductive health in most parts of the region and for activities related to women in some countries. New Zealand has programmes for health and for social and economic advancement of women. UNICEF's support covers maternal and child health, basic education, food and nutrition systems, social mobilization for child survival and child monitoring, while UNDP, which has two field offices with two subregional programmes, has focused on human development and poverty alleviation, national resource management, the environment and economic and financial management reform. All the United Nations agencies work closely together and coordinate their assistance in the region.

5. In the early 1970s, UNFPA initiated its assistance to the South Pacific through country-specific projects. The current subregional programme, which was formulated on the basis of the recommendation of a programme review and strategy development (PRSD) mission in 1991, aimed at assisting the Governments of the Pacific Island countries to achieve the following five broad objectives: (a) to expand and improve the quality and accessibility of maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) services; (b) to increase the level of awareness of population issues; (c) to improve the institutional capacity of countries to collect, process, analyse and disseminate demographic data; (d) to promote the status of women and their integration into the mainstream of development; and (e) to promote multisectoral activities with special emphasis on the environment and the sustainability of development.

6. By the end of 1995, a total amount of $9.5 million was expended ($9.3 million from regular resources and $200,000 from multi-bilateral resources contributed by the Government of Australia). The expenditure for 1996 is projected at $4 million ($2.55 million from regular resources and $1.45 million from multi-bilateral funds), for a total in 1992-1996 of $13.5 million ($11.85 million from regular and $1.65 million from multi-bilateral resources). Hence, at the end of 1996 the approved

level will have been exceeded by $1 million. This projected over-expenditure plus the request for $2.1 million ($1.8 million from regular resources and $300,000 from multi-bilateral sources) needed for the 1997 activities comprise the present request for additional funds. The proposed extension would bring the total approval authority for the period of 1992-1997 up to $15.6 million. The request for the extension and additional programme funds is being presented according to the work plan categories in effect when the original programme was approved in 1992.

7. The over-expenditure in the current programme has been incurred mostly under the sectors for MCH/FP (using the terminology of the original programme) as well as in the area of population policy formulation. UNFPA's programmatic activities created interest in the area of population through effective advocacy, generating a very favourable momentum for MCH/FP activities. Particularly since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), requests for financial and technical assistance from the Pacific Island countries have increased substantially. UNFPA provided assistance for the training of a wide range of health professionals and helped initiate population policy dialogue and policy reviews in most of the countries of the subregion.

II. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

8. In 1997, with the additionally requested funds of $2.1 million, UNFPA would continue to provide support for ongoing programme activities so that the achievements of the current programme will be further consolidated and the gains that have been made will not be jeopardized. As the requested funding level for 1997 is less than the annual expenditures in the recent years, proposed funds would be fully utilized to prevent an interruption of activities as well as to develop a new programme.

9. During the extension period, UNFPA would continue to provide assistance for the training of health professionals through both subregional and country-level training programmes. UNFPA assistance would also be used to cross-train nationals involved in the fields of health, development planning and education in order to further enhance their capability in the management, evaluation and quality control of programmes or services. UNFPA would also provide contraceptive supplies and support IEC activities in the area of reproductive health. These inputs are necessary since, in general, the subregion suffers from a shortage of qualified medical personnel in the public sector and limited accessibility to health services, particularly for reproductive health and family planning services in the outer islands. UNFPA assistance would also be used to ensure the timely referral of obstetric emergencies and pregnancy complications to secondary and tertiary levels of health care services, as this has been reported as a major problem, especially in the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands.

10. Special attention would continue to be given to the development of national capacity and the sustainability of the activities. To this end, UNFPA would provide technical assistance to conduct an

assessment of national capacity, disseminate integrated population and development planning modules, finalize population policies that are being reviewed or redrafted, train national staff in the execution of population programmes and strengthen coordination mechanisms.

11. Sectoral reviews of the current programme have been completed in 1996, and these findings will be utilized in the background paper being produced for the PRSD exercise planned in the early part of 1997, which will undertake an in-depth review and thorough assessment of the current programme. Taking into account the lessons learned from the current programme, the next programme of assistance would be developed and formulated, and its presentation to the Executive Board is planned for September 1997.

12. UNFPA proposes to extend the programme for the South Pacific through 1997 and to increase the funding approval authority by $3.1 million, which covers the projected $1 million over-expenditure and the $2.1 million ($1.8 million from regular resources and $300,000 from multi-bilateral resources) needed for proposed activities in 1997. The following table shows how the additional funds would be accommodated by programme area (in millions of $):

Sectors	Approved by Governing Council, 1992		Estimated expenditures, 1992 -1996		Amount requested for approval		Total, 1992-1997	
	Regular	Multi-bi	Regular	Multi-bi	Regular	Multi-bi	Regular	Multi-bi
Maternal & child health and family planning	3.5	1	5.3	0.92	2.8	(0.1)	6.3	0.9
Information, education and communication	2.5	0.5	2.5	0.1	0.35	(0.4)	2.85	0.1
Data collection and analysis	1.0	0.25	1.2	0.05	0.2	(0.2)	1.2	0.05
Population policy formulation	0.75	-	1.4	0.3	0.8	0.3	1.55	0.3
Women, population and development	0.75	0.25	0.35	-	(0.3)	(0.25)	0.45	-
Special programmes	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.3	(0.3)	0.1	0.7	0.6
Programme reserve*	0.5	-	0.4	-	0.1	-	0.6	-
Total	10	2.5	11.85	1.67	3.65	(0.55)	13.65	1.95

* Programme reserve was expended on multisectoral activities.

III. RECOMMENDATION

13. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the extension of the subregional programme for the South Pacific by one additional year, to the end of 1997, and increase the funding approval authority of the programme by $3.1 million, including $2.1 million requested for proposed activities in 1997.

UNITED NATIONS **DP**

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/FPA/1997/4
4 November 1996

ORIGINAL: English

First regular session 1997
13 - 17 January 1997, New York
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Audit Reports

1. As stipulated in UNFPA Financial Regulation 17.1 (c), the Executive Director wishes to bring to the attention of the Executive Board the comments made, and actions taken, in response to the recommendations contained in the Report of the United Nations Board of Auditors on the United Nations Population Fund for the biennium ended 31 December 1995 (A/51/5/Add.7). In addition to its audit of the accounts and financial transactions of UNFPA, the Board of Auditors also examined (a) UNFPA's planning, support and evaluation of national project execution; (b) UNFPA's technical support services (TSS) arrangements; (c) the procedures for managing interregional projects; and (d) UNFPA's selection, management and evaluation of consultants.

2. In accordance with UNFPA Financial Regulation 17.1(b), the summary statements of funds allocated to United Nations specialized agencies in 1995 were submitted to the third regular session of the Executive Board in 1996 in the Fund's annual financial review, 1995 (document DP/FPA/1996/22 and Corr.1).

3. The annex to document A/51/5/Add.7 shows the follow-up action taken in respect of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the 1992-1993 biennium. The implementation of previous recommendations is also reviewed in paragraphs 7 to 9 of the Board's report. Set out in the tables below are the steps taken by the Executive Director to date to address the concerns and issues raised by the Board of Auditors in their recommendations for the 1994-1995 biennium.

/...

Recommendation

4. The Executive Board may wish to take note of the report provided by the Executive Director on the measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 1994-1995, as contained in document A/51/5/Add.7.

Recommendations	*Follow-up Action*	*Current Status/Comments*
Trust Funds 1. UNFPA should adhere more closely to the requirement that trust fund activities only be initiated on a fully funded basis (para. 52).	UNFPA will increase its efforts to comply with this requirement.	This requirement has been adhered to except for one case with a negative balance of $3,748 as of 30 June 1996. We have been in touch with the funding organization for immediate payment.
National Execution		
2. UNFPA should make a more systematic assessment of country needs to ensure that it can respond in a well-planned and effective manner. It should also set strategic targets for the implementation of national execution (paras. 68-69).	As of 2 October 1996, UNFPA has established a Task Force on Policies and Procedures to assist the Fund in preparing and issuing guidelines relevant to its future operations. In this context, a national execution guide and strategy paper will be prepared. The staff training programmes will be redesigned accordingly. UNFPA is also encouraging the formulation of a programme management framework within its country programmes, which will address the issue of national capacities and execution modalities.	UNFPA has started reviewing the existing guidelines related to national execution with a view to updating and revising them. In addition, UNFPA has initiated consultations with UNDP which is also developing guidelines.
3. UNFPA should determine the role and responsibilities of field staff in relation to national execution and then plan the training and resources required to equip the field offices to fulfil their tasks (para. 73).	A Senior Management Adviser has reviewed field office capacity between November 1995 and April 1996 and will provide recommendations to UNFPA management for strengthening field offices. Moreover, an evaluation of the UNFPA training programme is underway.	The evaluation of the UNFPA staff training programme will be completed in early 1997.
4. UNFPA should finalize and issue the draft guidelines on the selection and assessment of institutions for national project execution (para. 74).	The Task Force on Policies and Procedures will oversee the production and completion of all relevant guidelines.	
5. UNFPA should evaluate its progress on implementing national execution; the methods used to enhance national capacity; and compare the effectiveness of national project execution with agency or other execution (para. 82).	UNFPA has initiated a thematic evaluation of executing agency modalities which will assess management and technical tasks carried out by agencies in order to assist UNFPA in fulfilling its mandate. UNFPA will also undertake a study on absorptive capacity and utilisation of financial resources among recipient countries, particularly in Africa in order to identify constraints and recommend operational measures.	The thematic evaluation and the absorptive capacity study will be completed by February 1997.

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Recommendations	*Follow-up Action*	*Current Status/Comments*
Technical Support Services Arrangements		
6. UNFPA should develop appropriate indicators of capacity building and of the impact of country support teams on programmes and projects (para. 93).	In the process of further developing the workplan for the CSTs and the semi-annual progress reports, UNFPA will consider how the impact of CSTs on programmes and projects can be measured.	
7. UNFPA should review the scope for extending the use of consultants in a country support role in order to gain access to fresh skills, as well as reduce costs (para. 95).	The Guidelines on Technical Support Services (TSS) have been revised and include a stronger focus on the first level of expertise, namely national consultants, to be involved in technical back-stopping.	The revised TSS Guidelines are currently being reviewed by the specialized agencies and should be issued by early 1997.
8. UNFPA should establish and periodically review countries' needs and ensure that country support teams' (CSTs) resources are adjusted accordingly (para. 101).	UNFPA has established a Field Unit under the direct supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Programme), which will ensure closer coordination between country needs and CST resources.	These issues are reviewed annually by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the TSS arrangements.
9. UNFPA should review the CST offices' running costs and exercise tight control, including establishing performance targets and measures to provide standards against which CST offices can compare their costs (para. 106).	The establishment of a Field Unit under the direct supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Programme) will ensure that the budgets of the CST offices are coordinated for better comparison of costs. UNFPA will also develop operational guidelines addressing priority issues for the CSTs so as to clearly indicate what is expected of them.	The operational guidelines are currently being drafted and should be issued by early 1997.

Recommendations	*Follow-up Action*	*Current Status/Comments*
Management of Interregional Projects		
10. UNFPA should give more consideration to whether an agency is best suited for a project, whether all the alternatives have been assessed and the most cost-effective approach chosen (para. 112).	The thematic evaluation of execution modalities, currently underway, will include an assessment of the effectiveness of executing agencies and will provide UNFPA with the information required to improve the selection process.	The evaluation missions will be conducted during November 1996. The final report will be issued during the first quarter of 1997.
11. UNFPA needs to take a more proactive role in formulating projects, setting out the requirements for meeting UNFPA's overall objectives and those of the intercountry programme (para. 114).	UNFPA has taken on a more proactive role in linking the 1996-1999 intercountry programme to country needs and has implemented a new process for the collective review of regional and interregional projects by the UNFPA Programme Review Committee (PRC). This approach has been effective in enhancing complementarity of activities at global and regional levels. The PRC forum with the participation of the Geographical Divisions (which have responsibility for country activities) also provides the opportunity of obtaining advice and comments in terms of the eventual use and relevancy of the outputs of the proposals to the countries.	
12. Where appropriate, UNFPA should use baseline studies to identify the need and the potential recipients of the project; and, where possible, UNFPA should set out a project's objectives in clearly quantifiable and qualitative terms (para. 114).	The Task Force on Policies and Procedures will ensure revisions of UNFPA's programming guidelines as a priority task. The use of baseline studies and the clearer definition of quantitative and qualitative project objectives will be emphasized.	
13. There should be more active involvement by the project officer in obtaining independent evidence of the project's progress, its quality, whether it is reaching the intended recipients and whether the objectives are being achieved (para. 118).	The role of the project officer in monitoring activities will be reviewed with a view to strengthening their involvement. Moreover, guidelines have been drafted which specify the role of each unit in the Technical and Evaluation Division in the monitoring of interregional projects. As a result, a more systematic process is being established and will improve the backstopping of interregional projects.	

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Recommendations	*Follow-up Action*	*Current Status/Comments*
Selection and Use of Consultants		
14. UNFPA's Division of Personnel should set clear criteria for consultants' Terms of Reference and ensure that they are met (para. 126).	On 3 July 1996, UNFPA issued criteria to clarify the preparation of consultants' terms of reference. Moreover, on 16 September 1996, UNFPA issued a checklist to all Divisions to guide them in preparing and reviewing requests for hiring of international consultants. The checklist includes an item on terms of reference.	
15. UNFPA should make increased use of its international roster and maintain it with up-to-date information (para. 131).	UNFPA has instructed its Country Support Teams and Geographical Divisions to ensure the inclusion of all consultants in its international roster and to improve the management of the roster by the Technical and Evaluation Division.	UNFPA will constitute an interdivisional working group to review the use of Special Service Agreements, including the design and standardized use of the consultants' roster, identification based on the technical assessment by TED and selection process and procedures, areas and actions which could be decentralized, SSA contract management, and assessment of performance, and to make recommendations for future recruitment.
16. UNFPA should review its selection procedures for consultants to secure a wider consideration of candidates (para. 133).	The improved management of the consultants' roster will assist UNFPA staff in ensuring a wider consideration of candidates for Special Service Agreements. The working group on the use of Special Service Agreements will also review the selection and assessment of international consultants.	
17. Evaluating officers should be required to give greater attention to the completion of assessment forms and that, as a minimum, the consultants' strengths and weaknesses should be identified (para. 135).	UNFPA will revise its forms for tighter management of the performance assessment of consultants. This issue will also be reviewed further by the interdivisional working group, to be lead by the UNFPA Personnel Branch.	

UNITED NATIONS **DP**

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/FPA/1997/5
7 November 1996

ORIGINAL: English

First Regular session 1997
13 - 17 January 1997, New York
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

COORDINATION IN HEALTH POLICY AND PROGRAMMING: FOLLOW-UP TO EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION 96/38

NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT

1. This note provides a brief summary of the status of the follow-up to decision 96/38, on coordination in health policy and programming, and of recent developments that have a direct bearing on the possible membership of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board in the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy.

2. Decision 96/38 of 13 September 1996 requested the President of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, with the assistance of the secretariat of UNFPA, to ascertain the views of the Executive Boards of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund on possible membership of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board in the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP) (para. 3). It also requested the President of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board to take appropriate action to enable the UNFPA secretariat to participate as an observer in the JCHP meeting scheduled for January 1997 (para. 4). Decision 96/38 further requested the Executive Director of UNFPA to report to the Executive Board at its second regular session 1997 on the observations made in the JCHP and to make further recommendations as appropriate on the action needed for the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board to obtain full membership in the JCHP (para. 5) (decision 96/38 attached as annex I).

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3. It should be noted that the JCHP meeting originally scheduled for January 1997 was postponed and rescheduled for May 1997. This altered the timing of the requests set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 of decision 96/38 but not the substance of those requests.

4. In compliance with decision 96/38, the President of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board contacted the Presidents of the Executive Boards of WHO and UNICEF, seeking their assistance in bringing the decision to the attention of their respective Executive Boards and, in particular, in facilitating the implementation of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the decision (letters dated 17 September 1996 attached as annexes II and III).

5. In a separate action, on 16 September 1996, the Executive Director of UNFPA contacted the executive heads of WHO and UNICEF concerning decision 96/38 and the views expressed by delegations at the third regular session of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board on the issue of the Board's possible membership in the JCHP (letters attached as annexes IV and V). The joint response of the Executive Director of UNICEF and the Director-General of WHO to that letter is attached as annex VI). The joint response notes that the executive heads of UNICEF and WHO plan to submit to their respective Executive Boards the following proposed arrangements:

(a) The agenda of the meeting of the Committee would be organized in such a way that matters of direct reference to UNFPA were clustered together. This selective management of the agenda would enable UNFPA to organize the attendance of its Board members and staff in the most economical and effective way it might wish to adopt;

(b) The present UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy would be known as the UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health and its terms of reference would be amended accordingly.

The joint letter also noted that the approval of the above proposed arrangements by the respective Boards of all three organizations prior to the next meeting of the (present) JCHP (scheduled for May 1997) could set in place the new arrangements for the first meeting of the new Committee in May 1997.

6. In her reply, the Executive Director of UNFPA took note of the proposed arrangements and informed the Executive Director of UNICEF and the Director-General of WHO that she would bring the proposals to the attention of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board as soon as possible (letter dated 4 November 1996 attached as annex VII).

Elements of a decision

7. In view of the recent developments noted above, the Executive Board may wish to approve the proposed arrangements recommended by the executive heads of UNICEF and WHO as contained in their joint letter in annex VI and recommend that the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board become a full member of the new UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health once it is established. The Executive Board may further wish to recommend that the joint Secretariat of the newly established Committee amend the terms of reference of the Committee accordingly.

Annex I

96/38. Coordination in health policy and programming

The Executive Board

1. Welcomes the oral report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on coordination in health policy and programming;

2. Reaffirms the need for close collaboration at all levels among the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund in the area of health policy and programming, including reproductive health, and invites the UNICEF-WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy to ensure that the United Nations Population Fund can participate in the meetings of the Joint Committee on Health Policy;

3. Requests the President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, with the assistance of the secretariat of the United Nations Population Fund, to ascertain the views of the Executive Boards of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund on possible membership of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund in the Joint Committee on Health Policy;

4. Requests the President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund to take appropriate action to enable the United Nations Population Fund secretariat to participate as an observer in the Joint Committee on Health Policy in January 1997;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at its second regular session 1997 on the observations made in the Joint Committee on Health Policy and to make further recommendations as appropriate on the action needed for the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to obtain full membership.

13 September 1996

/...

Annex II

17 September 1996

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to write to you in my capacity as President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund with reference to decision 96/38, which was adopted by the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board at its third regular session of 1996. A copy of the decision is attached for your information.

Decision 96/38, inter alia, reaffirms the need for close collaboration at all levels among UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA in the area of health policy and programming, including reproductive health, and invites the UNICEF-WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy to ensure that UNFPA can participate in the meetings of the Joint Committee on Health Policy (para. 2).

The decision requests that I, as President of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, ascertain the views of the Executive Boards of WHO and UNICEF on possible membership of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board in the Joint Committee on Health Policy (para. 3). It further requests that I take appropriate action to enable the UNFPA secretariat to participate as an observer in the Joint Committee on Health Policy (para.4).

It is through this letter that I seek to carry out the requests contained in decision 96/38. I would therefore very much appreciate your assistance in bringing this decision to the attention of your Executive Board and, in particular, in facilitating the implementation of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision 96/38.

It may be useful in your deliberations to note that the members of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board generally expressed strong support for the Board becoming a member of the Joint Committee on Health Policy.

/..

Dasho Sangay Nedup Dorji
Chairman,
Executive Board of the World Health Organization

The Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA stands ready to provide any information and/or support you may need in these endeavours.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Annette des Iles

Annette des Iles
President
Executive Board of the United Nations
Development Programme and the United
Nations Population Fund

Annex III

17 September 1996

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to write to you in my capacity as President of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund with reference to decision 96/38, which was adopted by the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board at its third regular session of 1996. A copy of the decision is attached for your information.

Decision 96/38, inter alia, reaffirms the need for close collaboration at all levels among UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA in the area of health policy and programming, including reproductive health, and invites the UNICEF-WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy to ensure that UNFPA can participate in the meetings of the Joint Committee on Health Policy (para. 2).

The decision requests that I, as President of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, ascertain the views of the Executive Boards of WHO and UNICEF on possible membership of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board in the Joint Committee on Health Policy (para. 3). It further requests that I take appropriate action to enable the UNFPA secretariat to participate as an observer in the Joint Committee on Health Policy (para.4).

It is through this letter that I seek to carry out the requests contained in decision 96/38. I would therefore very much appreciate your assistance in bringing this decision to the attention of your Executive Board and, in particular, in facilitating the implementation of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision 96/38.

It may be useful in your deliberations to note that the members of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board generally expressed strong support for the Board becoming a member of the Joint Committee on Health Policy.

/..

H.E. M. Ion Gorita,
President, Executive Board of UNICEF,
c/o Permanent Mission of Romania
to the United Nations

c.c. Miss Cecilia Lotse
Secretary of the Executive Board of UNICEF

The Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA stands ready to provide any information and/or support you may need in these endeavours.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Annette des Iles

Annette des Iles
President
Executive Board of the United Nations
Development Programme and the United
Nations Population Fund

Annex IV

UNFPA FNUAP

United Nations Population Fund
Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population

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New York, New York 10017
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Fax: (212) 297-4911
Telephone: (212) 297-5122

File No.: _____

16 September 1996

Dear Dr. Nakajima,

As you know, the UNFPA Executive Board which met last week, had among its agenda items inter-agency coordination in health policy and programming. I presented an oral report to the Executive Board, a copy of which I am pleased to share with you attached.

In discussing this item, the UNFPA Executive Board reaffirmed the need for close collaboration at all levels among UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA and it adopted a decision which requests that steps be taken for the UNFPA Executive Board to become member of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP). The decision, a copy of which is also attached for your attention, calls for UNFPA to participate, as an observer, in the next meeting of the JCHP in January 1997.

I look much forward to the support I hope you will provide for the implementation of this important decision in light of the close cooperation existing between WHO and UNFPA, and given the strong positive impact this arrangement has in illustrating further this cooperation to all our partners.

As I will be in Geneva soon during the period 23-26 September, I hope there will be an opportunity for me to meet with you and your WHO colleagues to discuss this issue further.

/...

Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima
Director-General
World Health Organization (WHO)
CH-1211 Geneva 27,
Switzerland

By fax: (41-22) 791-0746

While I recall that initially you had raised some questions about this proposal, I trust that I can today count on your full support given the strong complementarity of our organizations' mandates, policies and programmes and the urgency there is today to show coordinated action. The importance of policy coherence and programme coordination has further grown in the course of the past year and it would be most beneficial for all of our organizations to provide further evidence of this towards our legislative and governing bodies as well as our donors.

I personally and my senior management look forward to working closely with you and your colleagues on this proposal, and I thank you in advance very much for the support you will personally provide for its quick implementation.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Nafis Sadik
Executive Director
and Under-Secretary-General

Annex V

UNFPA FNUAP
United Nations Population Fund
Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population

220 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017
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Telex: 422031 or 422038
Fax: (212) 297-4911
Telephone: (212) 297-5122

File No.: _____

16 September 1996

Dear Ms. Bellamy,

As you know, the UNFPA Executive Board which met last week, had among its agenda items inter-agency coordination in health policy and programming. I presented an oral report to the Executive Board, a copy of which I am pleased to share with you attached.

In discussing this item, the UNFPA Executive Board reaffirmed the need for close collaboration at all levels among UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA and it adopted a decision which requests that steps be taken for the UNFPA Executive Board to become member of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP). The decision, a copy of which is also attached for your attention, calls for UNFPA to participate, as an observer, in the next meeting of the JCHP in January 1997.

I look much forward to the support I hope you will provide for the implementation of this important decision in light of the close cooperation existing between UNICEF and UNFPA, and given the strong positive impact this arrangement has in illustrating further this cooperation to all our partners.

Since the UNICEF Executive Board is currently in session, it would be very useful to bring this matter immediately to your Board's attention . I am also pleased to note that UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) , Ms. Kerstin Trone, will address the UNICEF Executive Board on this issue.

/...

Ms. Carol Bellamy
Executive Director
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
UNICEF House
3 United Nations Plaza
Room H-1380
New York, New York 10017
By fax: 326-7758

While I recall that initially you had raised some questions about this proposal, I trust that I can today count on your full support given the strong complementarity of our organizations' mandates, policies and programmes and the urgency there is today to show coordinated action. The importance of policy coherence and programme coordination has further grown in the course of the past year and it would be most beneficial for all of our organizations to provide further evidence of this towards our legislative and governing bodies as well as our donors.

I personally and my senior management look forward to working closely with you and your colleagues on this proposal, and I thank you in advance very much for the support you will personally provide for its quick implementation.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Nafis Sadik
Executive Director
and Under-Secretary-General

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE

Annex VI

Téléphone Central/Exchange: 791. 21.11
Direct: 791 3364

In reply please refer to:
Prière de rappeler la FRH:P13/522/22

Your reference:
Votre référence:

Dr Nafis Sadik
Executive Director
United Nations Population Fund
220 East, 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
USA

October 1996

Dear Dr Sadik,

We refer to the discussions that took place at the UNFPA Executive Board, in the context of interagency coordination, concerning the participation of the UNFPA Executive Board in the WHO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Health Policy, and as referred to in your letter of 16 September 1996.

We attach great importance to coordination within the United Nations system. In this regard, we fully share the concern that both you, yourself, and the Board members have expressed regarding the need to ensure close collaboration, and coordinated action, between UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO. We look forward to working more closely with UNFPA on issues related to the work of the three agencies.

In recent meetings, we have had an opportunity to review jointly the question of UNFPA membership in the JCHP. In so doing we took full account of the views expressed by the members of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board on 12 September 1996, and the views of the UNICEF Executive Board on 18 September 1996. We also recalled the contents of your letter to us in November 1995.

Recognizing the prerogatives of the Governing Bodies of our organizations, we plan to submit to our respective Executive Boards the following proposed arrangements:

.../2.

cc: The Director, UNFPA Liaison Office for Europe, Geneva Executive Centre, Palais des Nations, 1211 Genève 10

Dr Nafis Sadik
Executive Director
United Nations Population Fund, New York

FRH-P13/522/22

- The agenda of the meeting of the Committee would be organized in such a way that matters of direct reference to UNFPA were clustered together. This selective management of the agenda would enable UNFPA to organize the attendance of its Board members and staff in the most economical and effective way it might wish to adopt.

- The present UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy would be known as the UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health and its terms of reference would be amended accordingly.

The next meeting of the (present) JCHP is scheduled for May 1997. The Executive Boards of all three organizations will meet before that time and, on approval by our respective Boards, the new arrangements could be set in place for the first meeting of the new Committee in May 1997.

We trust that you will find these proposals in line with the expectations of your Board, and of yourself. An early response from you would be appreciated so that matters can be set in motion without delay.

We look forward to fully cooperating with you in pursuit of our common goals.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Carol Bellamy
Executive Director
UNICEF

Hiroshi Nakajima, M.D., Ph.D.
Director-General
WHO

UNFPA FNUAP
United Nations Population Fund **Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population**

Annex VII

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Telephone: (212) 297-5122

File No.: _____

4 November 1996

Dear Ms. Bellamy and Dr. Nakajima,

Thank you for your letter of October 1996, reference FRH: P13/522/22, concerning the Joint Committee on Health Policy.

I am pleased that you agree that coordination at the policy level is important among our three organizations and I am glad that you welcome the proposal for UNFPA Executive Board to become a member of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Health Policy.

I take note of your suggestions for the proposed arrangements; namely the preparation of the agenda so that matters of direct reference to UNFPA are clustered together, the renaming of the committee as **"UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA Coordinating Committee on Health"** and the amending of its terms of reference accordingly.

I also note that the next meeting of the JCHP is scheduled for May 1997, and that the Executive Boards of our respective organizations will meet before that time. As you have suggested, it is expected that upon approval by our respective Boards, the new arrangements can then be set in place for the first meeting of the new Committee in May 1997.

We will proceed to immediately inform the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board accordingly. We look very much forward to cooperating closely with UNICEF and WHO on this new Coordinating Committee on Health.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

NS

Nafis Sadik
Executive Director
and Under-Secretary-General

Ms. Carol Bellamy
Executive Director
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
3 United Nations Plaza, Room H-1380
New York, New York 10017

By fax: 326-7758

Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima
Director-General
World Health Organization (WHO)
CH-1211 Geneva 27
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By fax:(41-22) 791-0746